

VIETNAMESE SUMMARY SUPPLEMENT  
(Information as of 1100 EDT)

1. Madame Nhu is cutting back sharply on her television engagements, explaining that she is too busy and in danger of overexposure. Yesterday she taped, for evening showing, a WOR-TV interview with Joseph Newman and William Haddad of the Herald Tribune, but cancelled engagements to record week-end shows for "Open Mind," (one hour, Eric Goldman, New York Channel 4) and "Open End," (two hours, David Susskind, syndicated;) and a date on the NBC "Today" show for Friday morning. NBC promptly announced that John Sharkey, NBC correspondent beaten by Saigon police at the latest Buddhist suicide last Saturday, would replace her on "Today" and would also be a member of the panel she is to face on "Meet the Press" Sunday. "Meet the Press" now is the only scheduled network TV appearance of her American visit.

2. Judging by past performances of "Meet the Press," her appearance there may prove disastrous. Film clips of her speech and question period before an audience of 1,000 at the Overseas Press Club yesterday, used on network and local TV news programs, showed that Madame Nhu is not fully sure of herself in the English language, although the New York Times called her English "hesitant but adequate." The laughter which greeted her remarks on social customs and other mores of South Vietnam suggested that she may often convey an entirely different meaning from what she intends to say. These films of Madame Nhu in action make it obvious that extensive editing has gone into some of the quotes used by the press.

3. In her WOR-TV interview she charged that USIS, abetted by the AP, UPI, Voice of America, and New York Times, is "really working, helping feverishly" a plot to overthrow the South Vietnamese Government. She denied that the Diem regime is a dictatorship, citing five elections in the course of nine years of war with the Communists. "We have been," she commented, "more or less, even unconsciously, victims of that too-effective Communist propaganda network." She said plots against the government would not succeed. She described the suicides as "real Buddhists, sincere Buddhists" who "trusted too much the people who incited them to make those sacrifices."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved For Release 2002/01/03 : CIA-RDP79T00429A001400070011-3

4. At the Overseas Press Club luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria, Madame Nhu said "I strongly believe my country will be reunited in the not-too-distant future, because the North knows perfectly well that they are being defeated." She suggested the US knows less about fighting subversive wars than nuclear or conventional wars, and invited the West to "See us winning--win with us...in Vietnam not only are we founding (sic) that solution but we are experiencing it and we are proving that that solution works."

Asked what she would do if she were President of the United States, Madame Nhu replied the first step would be "to inform the people (about Communism) instead of being inclined to lull them into a false sense of security." Returning to her alleged reference to "little soldiers of fortune," she denied that she had ever "called your gallant soldiers 'little soldiers,'" and said she used the soldiers-of-fortune term as Churchill had used it to mean "self-made heroes." She added that the US personnel killed in South Vietnam had certainly not been mere "spectators" in the war.

She also (a) denied there is Buddhist persecution in South Vietnam, and (b) said her father was fired as ambassador to Washington before he resigned.

5. Her father, Tran Van Chuong, who has shunned her and called her "power-hungry," is booked for his own cross-country lecture tour with engagements 19 Oct. at the University of Nebraska, 25 Oct. at the University of Missouri, 29 Oct. at Boston University, 30 Oct. at Connecticut Wesleyan, and 31 Oct. at Brandeis University. Former President Truman commented yesterday that Chuong is handling his daughter very well, and that she "has made a fool of herself."

6. At times yesterday, Madame Nhu may have felt she never left home. Four photographers trying to take her picture as she left the WOR-TV studio claim they were punched by New York police, and about 200 assorted pickets greeted her as she reached the Waldorf-Astoria. Left-wingers representing the "Youth Against War and Fascism" carried signs calling her a "Pentagon Puppet." Other pickets represented an interfaith religious group.

7. She is to have lunch today with Time magazine writers and will speak later at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved For Release 2002/01/03 : CIA-RDP79T00429A001400070011-3